



## Adaptation to climate change in Southern Africa: Factoring in AIDS

**Author(s):** Drimie S, Gillespie S  
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### Abstract:

This paper addresses the interactions between the AIDS epidemic and climate change in southern Africa, particularly as they impact on food security. An assessment was undertaken through a comprehensive literature review. Understanding the underlying causes of regional food insecurity inevitably means understanding the role of the AIDS epidemic and increasingly climate change amongst other stressors. AIDS cuts through household and community level capacity, as well as the capacity of key facilitators of the adaptation process including state extension services and civil society organisations. The main argument of the paper is that adaptation to climate change must explicitly factor in the existing and long-term effects of the epidemic. While calls for embracing adaptation abound, little is being done to assess and strengthen the organisational capacity of institutions, which should play leading roles in any attempt to help prepare for a changing climate. In particular the capacity of key agencies has been undermined by the AIDS epidemic. This reiterates the need for a multisectoral approach and building bridges between agriculture and health sectors to ensure longer term support to livelihoods where HIV and hunger coexist, often overlaid by climate change. (C) 2010 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

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### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;  
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Food Access/Distribution

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## **Geographic Feature:** ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Africa

**African Region/Country:** African Country

**Other African Country:** Malawi;Zambia

## **Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Malnutrition/Undernutrition

## **Intervention:** ☒

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

## **Medical Community Engagement:** ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

**Other Vulnerable Population:** People with AIDS

## **Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Resilience:** ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to

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shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

### **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

### **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content